

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-69, 111-126 and 130-132 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 70-110 were previously withdrawn. Claims 127-129 have been cancelled. Claims 119, 122, 124 and 130-132 have been amended. The claim amendments and additions from Amendment "A" have been incorporated herein.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful and detailed review of the case, and provide the following response with regard to new claims 119-132. The Applicants agree that a statement regarding the new claims should have been presented in Amendment "A" dated April 23, 2003. Further, the Applicants' representative appreciates the telephone conference with Examiner Brittain on August 18, 2003, regarding the need to amend certain terms in a few of the new claims so as to provide clarity. Those clarifying amendments have been made, as noted above.

Claims 119, 120 and 121 are product-by-process claims that depend on allowable method claims 9, 13 and 25, respectively. Each of these three claims is believed to be allowable for the same reasons that claims 9, 13 and 25 are allowable.

Claims 122-126 and 130-132 are similar to claims 111-118 in that claims 122-126 and 130-132 are directed to cutting or forming fasteners used for reclosable packages via a device that does not contact the fastener, as opposed to a conventional device that does contact the fastener (e.g., a knife). Claims 122 and 123 require forming the ends with a device that does not contact the first and second tracks. Claims 124-126 require cutting the first track via a non-contact cutting mechanism and forming the ends of the first track such that they are substantially free of irregularities associated with a contact cutting mechanism (e.g., a knife). Claim 130

requires forming one or more ends of the first and second tracks by a non-contact process and allowing surface tension to seal the first and second tracks together. Claim 131 requires sealing the first and second tracks with a non-contact sealing mechanism to produce ends formed primarily by surface tension. Claim 132 requires cutting the first and second tracks with a non-contact cutting mechanism to produce ends formed primarily by surface tension.

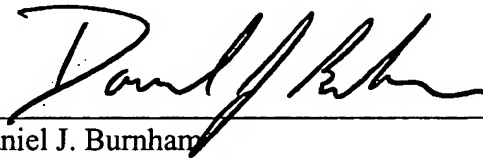
None of the cited prior art teach or suggest the use of a non-contact cutting device to form the ends of a fastener that is used in reclosable packages. Nor does the cited prior art teach or suggest the use of a non-contact sealing device to seal the first and second tracks of a fastener that is used in reclosable packages. Hence, claims 122-126 and 130-132 are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

#### **Conclusion**

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



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